

-- ~~18~~¹⁵. A vaccine for the protection of animals against HCV infection, comprising a protein according to claim ~~14~~¹⁵. --

-- ~~19~~¹⁶. The vaccine according to claim ~~18~~¹⁵, wherein the protein comprises the amino acid sequence from about 263 - 487 of SEQ ID NO:2. --

-- ~~20~~¹⁷. The vaccine according to claim ~~19~~¹⁶, wherein the protein is recombinantly expressed. --

-- ~~21~~¹⁸. A method for the detection of the presence of HCV antibodies in an animal, comprising reacting the 44/48 kD protein of HCV with the serum of the animal, and determining the presence of an antibody/antigen complex, whereby the presence of the complex indicates a positive result. --

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 13 are canceled and new claims 14 - 21 are added hereby. Claims 8 and 14 - 21 are now pending.

The new claims correspond to the claims allowed in the parent application, USSN 08/873,759 (which are based on the nucleic acid sequence that encodes the 44/48 kD protein), as well as on the non-elected claims in the parent application.

Favorable consideration on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If any other fees are due in this application, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334.

Respectfully submitted,

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